BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 23 | Humidity 62% Heavy thunderstorm Sensex 76,009 | Nifty 23,913 | Gold 1,57,900 | Silver 2,70,766 | Dollar 95.64 | Euro 111.24 | GBP 128.67

**CLEAN SIP**

₹4.02-crore hi-tech lab to strengthen meter monitoring for water safety, leak detection, billing transparency

PAGE 4

**WELL PLAYED**

Backed by captain's stunning knock, RCB bowlers proceed to dismantle Gujarat's batting order

PAGE 7

## Research finds harmful levels of pharmaceutical waste in lakes, groundwater; surface waters most affected in locations receiving industrial effluents or sewage

# PAINKILLERS IN OUR LAKES

### Highest concentration in Vrishabhavathi River, followed by Hebbal and Madiwala lakes

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KAUSHIK JN

A unique pollution crisis is brewing in Bengaluru's water bodies. An analysis of water samples from 15 locations in Bengaluru shows that pharmaceutical waste has contaminated the city's water bodies, including Bellandur Lake and groundwater in Whitefield and Electronic City.

Researchers have found harmful levels of chemical compounds such as norfloxacin, diclofenac, naproxen, triclosan, and caffeine, which are generally found in antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs.

The highest levels of contamination were observed in surface waters, especially in locations receiving direct industrial effluents or sewage.

Certain sites exhibited very high cumulative PPCP concentrations, including 540.35 µg/L of norfloxacin (an antibiotic), 302.78 µg/L of diclofenac (an anti-inflammatory), and 712.6 µg/L of naproxen (an anti-inflammatory).

Researchers from 10 educational institutions and NGOs collected groundwater samples from Kengeri, Electronic City, Yelahanka, Whitefield, Hennur, Bannerghatta Road area, Marathalli, Koramangala, and Rajajinagar. Samples were also collected from surface water bodies, including Bellandur, Hebbal, and Madiwala lakes, apart from Arkavathi, Vrishabhavathi, and Dakshina Pinakini rivers.

> **"The finding of substances linked to human use and clinical use, like caffeine, diclofenac, and norfloxacin, supports the assumption that wastewater is a primary source, mainly discharging of hospital wastewater and discarding leftover medicines**
>
> —Harikaranahalli Puttaiah Shivaraju, ICESu, JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research

**Densely packed**

According to researchers, these water bodies were selected based on pressures due to human activities, including industrial effluent discharge, sewage inflow, and urban

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

# Think before you click

### More trusting of 'official' looking messages, senior citizens fall into APK file traps, lose life savings

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It looked like a harmless enough RTO challan update. But when a 64-year-old Ejipura resident clicked on it, he ended up downloading an APK file that proved to be calamitous. At the end of his cyber fraud ordeal, he had lost ₹26.52 lakh.

As APK-based cyber frauds disguised as bank updates, electricity bill alerts, and government service apps flood phones, it is senior citizens that are bearing the brunt. Karnataka reported 458 APK-related cyber fraud cases till April 2026, averaging nearly four cases a day, even as police continue initiatives such as 'Mane Mane Gu Police' and 'Aasare' to educate senior citizens about online frauds.

In 2024, Karnataka had recorded 325 APK fraud cases, which nearly tripled to 944 cases in 2025. Unlike digital arrest or investment scams, APK frauds often operate silently without direct threats or intimidation.

With lifelong savings and pension funds, senior citizens have become one of the most vulnerable groups targeted in such frauds due to limited digital awareness. According to National Cybersecurity Scholar and Cybercrime Intervention Officer Chetan Anand, APK files are disguised as official service. Cybercriminals typically send fraudulent APK links through SMS, WhatsApp

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Crafting connections

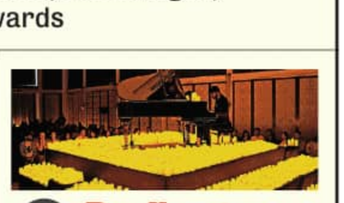
Dastkar Bazaar presents its 25th edition with 160+ craft groups bringing authentic handcrafted merchandise across textiles, pottery, jewellery and wellness products, while also supporting artisans affected by the recent Delhi fire. **Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel; When: May 29 to June 4, 10.30 am to 8 pm**

### 02 Fetch the fun

Atta Galatta is hosting It's Raining Dogs & Cats, a day of stories, creativity and community spirit with a playful celebration that blends literature, imagination and companionship, welcoming families, children and even their furry friends into the joy. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 30, 11 am onwards**

### 03 Colours of joy

Magical World, an exhibition featuring a vibrant collection of artworks by Badrunissa Irfan, brings alive the magic of childhood and the warmth of simple moments through playful, hand-painted characters and scenes. **Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City; When: Until May 30**



### 04 Radiant rhythm

Candlelight® by Live Your City returns to Bengaluru this season, offering audiences intimate evenings where thousands of glowing candles transform venues into immersive settings for unforgettable live music experiences. **Where: Samarthanam Auditorium- Managed by Theatrenama; When: May 30, 6.30 pm, 8.30 pm**

### 05 Match frenzy

SOCIAL is turning match viewing into a full-blown fan experience through the #DoosraStadium celebration, with screenings that blend high energy décor, roaring crowds and the thrill of cricket moments shared in an electrifying atmosphere. **Where: Every SOCIAL outlet; When: May 31**

# Fatal wall collapse exposes gaps in child safety norms

## Juvenile's death in wall collapse points to serious lapses in child labour prevention and dangers of unsafe work environments where basic safety measures remain neglected

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Sixteen-year-old Bhimesh, whose parents had planned to celebrate his birthday on June 1, tragically lost his life just days earlier in a wall collapse at 4th E Cross, Seenappa Layout, Chikka Banaswadi. The family, migrants to the city for livelihood, is now mourning his untimely death. According to reports, Bhimesh was assisting his parents in constructing a wall when it gave way on Monday. Allegations have surfaced that no safety measures were in place at the site. Banaswadi police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) and launched an investigation into the incident. "We have registered a case and the investigation is in progress," said a police official.

Residents expressed shock and dismay at the tragic mishap, which claimed the life of young Bhimesh and left another person injured. "A politician visited the spot and said that he will pay Rs 5 lakh. A youngster who had lots of ambitions died due to no fault of his own. How can a 16-year-old work? He is a juvenile and suitable action has to be taken against those engaged in the construction of the wall," said a resident.

A poster bearing Bhimesh's photograph has been put up, carrying the words "Sad Demise" and "Miss You Bhimesh," along with his date of birth and date of death. Child rights activists say that the government should take measures to prevent juveniles from being engaged in hazardous work. "Nowadays, many children are engaged in construction works. Their parents allow the children to work as it earns some income. I want the jurisdictional labour inspector to take action against those found guilty," said Lakshapathy Pendyala of APSA.

Sixteen-year-old Bhimesh lost his life in a wall collapse on Monday

**Loss of young life should serve as wake-up call for stricter enforcement of child protection laws, improved workplace inspections, accountability of employers and greater public awareness about child labour, says child rights activist**

Describing the death of the 16-year-old boy engaged in construction work as truly tragic and deeply unfortunate, Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights activist, said that every child deserves care, protection, education and a safe environment to grow. According to international and Indian child rights laws, all persons below 18 years of age are considered children. "Workplaces where children and adolescents are employed must ensure safety, dignity and protection from exploitation. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, as amended in 2016 (CLPRA–2016), clearly prohibits adolescents aged 14 to 18 years from working in hazardous occupations and processes. Construction work has been identified as a hazardous sector due to risks such as falls, heavy machinery, unsafe structures, dust exposure, electrical hazards and physical injury," Rao said.

He said the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, also emphasises the responsibility of society and the State to protect children from neglect, abuse, exploitation and dangerous labour conditions. "Employing children or adolescents in unsafe environments is not merely a legal violation but also a denial of their fundamental rights to life, safety, education, health and development," he said.

He opined that poverty and family hardship should never force children into dangerous labour. Instead, governments, employers, communities and citizens must work together to ensure that every child remains in school, receives proper support and grows in a safe and nurturing environment. "The loss of this young life should serve as a wake-up call for stricter enforcement of child protection laws, improved workplace inspections, accountability of employers and greater public awareness about child labour and child safety. Every child deserves dreams, opportunities and protection — not hazardous work and preventable tragedy," he added.

## 13-year-old wins national title in Chinese language competition

Chinese Ambassador to India presents the award to Viraat Narayan

Viraat Narayan, a 13-year-old student of Indus International School Bangalore, has won the National Championship at the 19th Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition, a global Mandarin language contest for school students. The Chinese Ambassador to India presented the award at a ceremony in New Delhi on May 23, 2026. He will now represent India at the global finals in China scheduled for July–August. Viraat learned Mandarin outside of school through training at India China Academy, Bengaluru, and is among the youngest winners of the national title. — BMB

## Volvo Cars Bengaluru hosts wildlife art showcase

Martial Volvo Cars Bengaluru hosted an art showcase titled Whispers of the Wild at its Race Course Road showroom on May 23, 2026, in collaboration with Artenblu. The event featured wildlife artist and photographer MD Parashar, known for his soot-based artworks inspired by Ranthambhore forests. The event brought together guests including art collectors and artists. A live demonstration was held where Parashar showed his process of creating art using soot and paper. His works focused on tigers and wildlife themes. The showcase was organised as a collaboration between Volvo Cars Bengaluru and Artenblu, highlighting art and sustainability. — BMB

## BMTC introduces smart ticketing machines with dynamic QR codes

FILE PHOTO

BMTC has introduced new electronic ticketing machines (ETMs) with dynamic QR codes in its buses to prevent conductors from misusing digital payment systems. Earlier, static QR codes linked to bus accounts were pasted inside buses for passengers to make UPI payments and receive tickets. However, cases were reported where some conductors issued free 'Shakti' scheme tickets meant for women to male passengers and diverted the fare amount to their personal accounts. Following these incidents, the concerned staff were suspended. The new ETMs have in-built scanners connected to the central transport server, ensuring payments link directly to the corporation, eliminating the possibility of fraud through personal QR codes.

BMTC officials said the new system supports UPI-based ticketing through dynamic QR codes, along with mobile tickets, passes and smart cards. The upgraded ETMs have better battery capacity and operate on a web-based centralised software platform. The corporation believes the system will improve transparency, encourage cashless transactions and reduce issues related to change between passengers and conductors. BMTC officials said the smart ETMs are being introduced in phases and are currently in the pilot stage, aiming to offer faster, easier and technology-driven commuter services. — BMB

# Why wait for weekend, when every day is a peak pizza day in Bengaluru?

Pizza is seeing a clear rise in midweek demand across Bengaluru, driven largely by offers and discount-led pricing. Food delivery platforms and restaurant operators say the city's appetite for pizza is no longer concentrated around weekends alone, as weekday promotions and changing work routines push more orders into the middle of the week.

Across major residential and commercial hubs such as Koramangala, Indiranagar, Whitefield, HSR Layout and Electronic City, pizza outlets report steady activity on weekdays when promotional deals are active. Store managers say Wednesday evenings, in particular, have become a strong ordering window. "We are seeing consistent mid-week demand whenever there are offers on the app or in-store combos," said a manager at a popular pizza chain in central Bengaluru. "Customers are very price-aware and time their orders around discounts."

Delivery executives also confirm that weekday evenings have become busier compared to previous years. "Earlier, weekdays were slow except Fridays," said a delivery rider working in south Bengaluru. "Now, when there are offers, we get continuous orders on Wednesdays and Thursdays also. It feels evenly spread."

Customers say convenience and cost are the main reasons for ordering mid-week. Many working professionals describe it as a practical alternative after long workdays. "By mid-week, cooking feels like extra work," said Akshara Iyer, a software employee in Whitefield. "If there is an offer running, it becomes an easy decision. It is quick, affordable and saves time."

**"If there's a discount, we pool in and order during the week itself. It becomes a small break from routine hostel food**

Students and young professionals echo similar behaviour, often ordering in groups during weekdays. "We don't wait for weekends anymore," said Rohan Desai, a college student in south Bengaluru. "If there's a discount, we pool in and order during the week itself. It becomes a small break from routine hostel food."

Industry observers say food delivery platforms have been actively promoting mid-week deals to smooth demand patterns across the week. With aggressive pricing strategies, combo offers and app-based coupons, platforms are encouraging customers to place orders on days that were earlier relatively slow. A restaurant manager in Indiranagar said the strategy is clearly working. "Mid-week traffic has improved mainly because of offers. People respond quickly to discounts, especially for group orders or office dinners."

Changing work culture is also contributing to the trend. With hybrid schedules and longer working hours, many residents prefer ordering food rather than cooking late in the evening. "People are working till late even on weekdays," said another restaurant supervisor in Koramangala. "Pizza is seen as a quick shared meal, especially when there are deals available."

Experts say that Bengaluru continues to remain one of India's strongest pizza consumption markets, with steady growth in overall orders. Data from food delivery platforms suggests that weekday promotions are helping maintain consistent demand across the week, rather than concentrating sales on weekends alone.

For many residents, the appeal remains simple and practical. As one customer summed it up, "If there is a good offer in the middle of the week, pizza is an easy choice—it fits the mood, the time and the budget."

# Smart ₹4.02-crore lab to transform B'luru water checks

## Advanced laboratory aims to conduct all 64 mandatory water quality tests under one roof, reducing delays caused by dependence on private facilities

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In a major push to improve drinking water safety, leak detection and billing transparency, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has initiated plans to establish an advanced centralised water and meter testing laboratory in Malleswaram at an estimated cost of ₹4.02 crore. The hi-tech facility, to be built on campus, is expected to become a key part of the city's Brand Bengaluru infrastructure initiative amid rapid urbanisation, rising population and an increasingly complex water distribution network.

BWSSB has floated tenders for the project. Officials said the new laboratory will integrate modern technologies, including advanced monitoring systems and data-driven testing mechanisms, to ensure accurate assessment of water quality and distribution efficiency across Bengaluru. A BWSSB official said the city's expanding water network demands continuous monitoring and precise supply measurement. "The advanced centralised laboratory will help ensure scientific monitoring of water quality and accurate accounting of water supplied to consumers," he said.

Currently, BWSSB's Quality Assurance Division operates laboratories at High Grounds on Millers Road, Jayanagar 4th Phase and OMBR Layout in Banaswadi. Another facility at Peenya Phase III is nearing completion and is expected to become operational by June after power supply and equipment installation. The proposed Malleswaram facility will become the fifth and most advanced testing centre under BWSSB's network.

Monthly testing covers nearly 3,000 citywide water samples

Under existing regulations, drinking water must be tested across 64 parameters, including physical, chemical and heavy metal indicators, to certify overall safety and quality. However, current laboratories lack infrastructure to conduct several specialised tests, forcing BWSSB to rely on private laboratories, often resulting in delays. The new centralised laboratory aims to address this gap by enabling all 64 tests under one roof.

"The utility currently collects around 2,800 to 3,000 water samples every month from across the city for quality analysis. Samples are gathered from household taps during supply hours, public taps, ground-level reservoirs, contaminated zones, slum areas and distribution pipelines. Each service station is inspected at least twice a month, with around 10 samples collected during every visit," an official added.

> **"Samples are gathered from household taps during supply hours, public taps, ground-level reservoirs, contaminated zones, slum areas and distribution pipelines**
> – BWSSB official

Apart from water quality checks, the new facility will improve water meter monitoring. BWSSB's existing Malleswaram lab can only be inspected 15 mm and 20 mm meters. Officials said accurate meter functioning is vital to reduce unaccounted-for water losses and ensure transparent billing.

The proposed laboratory will test meters ranging from 15 mm to 50 mm across Bengaluru.

## Bengaluru's illegal building boom defies OC norms

Despite the Supreme Court making Occupancy Certificates (OC) mandatory for permanent water and electricity connections, illegal multi-storey buildings continue to mushroom across Bengaluru and other urban areas, officials said.

The state government currently permits only Ground+2 floors or Stilt+3 structures on 30x40 sites without requiring an OC. However, officials claim many property owners are violating sanctioned plans and constructing four to five floors in the hope of earning rental income, despite repeated warnings that permanent electricity connections will not be provided without an OC. Officials said temporary power supply is granted during construction based on approved building plans, with clear conditions that structures must adhere to sanctioned limits. Buildings exceeding permitted height require an OC from civic authorities, yet many owners continue construction despite the risk of denial of permanent connections.

Officials admitted stricter OC rules have reduced new power connections, impacting electricity supply company revenues. Though the government recently exempted residential buildings on sites up to 1,200 sq ft from mandatory OCs, officials said the benefit remains limited as many Bengaluru homes are built on larger plots such as 30x50 and 40x60 sites. They suggested a one-time regularisation scheme with penalties for existing violations, alongside stricter action against future illegal constructions. — BMB

## City helmet drive nets 4,350 violators

The Traffic Department conducted a special drive on May 26 from 6 am to 9 am across the city. During the drive, traffic police registered 2,920 cases against riders without helmets and 1,430 cases against pillion riders without helmets, taking the total to 4,350 cases. Traffic authorities urged the public to wear helmets while riding two-wheelers to prevent injuries or loss of life in accidents. The city traffic police said such drives will take place regularly across the city. — BMB

## Traffic cop slap video sparks outrage

A video of a traffic personnel is going viral on social media, showing the official allegedly slapping an auto rickshaw driver near Raja Ram Mohan Roy Extension around 2.15 pm on Tuesday. The incident reportedly occurred after the auto driver slightly hit a parked bike belonging to the traffic official. Following the incident, netizens criticised the personnel online and called for strict action, accusing the official of misusing authority and ill-treating a member of the public over the matter. — BMB

## Rowdy jumps off building to evade arrest

An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) was injured during an operation to arrest a rowdy sheeter who allegedly jumped from the first floor of an under-construction building in Soladevanahalli while trying to evade police custody.

The accused, Nagaraj, sustained serious injuries in the fall and is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital. Police said he is recovering. According to a complaint filed by Police Sub-Inspector Pradeep Kumar C of Bagalagunte Police Station, the police team was investigating a case registered under the SC/ST Act and various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), in which Nagaraj was the accused and had been absconding.

Acting on credible information, PSI Pradeep Kumar, along with ASI Srinivas and other police personnel, visited an under-construction building owned by Nagaraj in Soladevanahalli around 1.30 pm on May 21 after receiving inputs that he was hiding there. After spotting Nagaraj on the terrace, police identified themselves and attempted to apprehend him. During the attempt, Nagaraj jumped from the first floor and broke his leg, while ASI Srinivas sustained injuries during the scuffle. Police later secured Nagaraj and shifted him to hospital. A fresh case was registered against him for allegedly assaulting and obstructing police personnel from discharging official duty. — BMB

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### Manhole danger
**Kadugodi**

An open manhole on AB Vajpayee Main Road in Kadugodi continues to pose a serious risk to commuters and schoolchildren despite repeated complaints to BWSSB engineers.

### Blocked signal
**Rajajinagar**

A BBMP board near 1st R Block in Rajajinagar has completely blocked the pedestrian signal, leaving pedestrians unable to see it while waiting to cross.

### Civic neglect
**Shivajinagar**

Damaged roads and footpaths in Shivajinagar continue to cause inconvenience and safety concerns for residents and children despite repeated complaints, with urgent repairs still needed.

# CRIME FILES

## Nine nabbed while escaping city with stolen gold

The Halasuru Gate police arrested nine workers for allegedly stealing 618 grams of gold bars and ornaments worth Rs 89 lakh from a private gold company in Nagarathpete while travelling by train to West Bengal via Visakhapatnam. The stolen gold was recovered from the accused.

According to a complaint filed on May 12, nine workers employed in gold and silver work for the past six months had stolen gold bars and ornaments from the company on the night of May 11. Based on the complaint, a theft case was registered at Halasuru Gate Police Station.

Investigation revealed that the accused had boarded a train from KR Puram and were travelling from Bengaluru to West Bengal via Visakhapatnam. Bengaluru police had shared photographs of the accused with the Visakhapatnam Railway Police. While conducting checks, railway police identified all accused in one of the compartments and alerted Bengaluru police. A police team secured the accused near the railway station in Visakhapatnam on May 13 along with the stolen property.

The accused were remanded to judicial custody on May 15. —BMB

## Stolen phone helps police officials crack jewellery shop burglary

Bagalagunte police arrested three accused for allegedly stealing silver articles worth Rs 98.39 lakh from a jewellery shop on Hesaraghatta Main Road. Officials said the burglary case, which initially had no CCTV evidence, was cracked using a stolen mobile phone.

The burglary came to light on April 28, 2026, when the shop owner found the rear wall of his shop broken and nearly 70 kg of silver articles missing. The accused had also targeted a nearby ceramics shop, stealing a laptop, mobile phone, DVR and other items.

The breakthrough came after investigators traced a mobile phone stolen from the ceramics shop. Police tracked two suspects to Raipur in Rajasthan and arrested them. During questioning, the duo allegedly named their associate who was later arrested from Dasanapura in Nelamangala. Between May 12 and May 25, police recovered 35.874 kg of silver articles from multiple locations. All three accused have been remanded to judicial custody and further investigation is underway. —BMB

## IPL betting racket busted in B'luru

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) Special Investigation Squad conducted a major crackdown on cricket betting activities linked to the 2026 Tata IPL T20 tournament, registering 17 cases across various police station limits in Bengaluru and arresting 23 persons involved in illegal betting operations.

Police said the raids were carried out based on credible information regarding betting networks operating during IPL matches. Of the total cases, nine were registered at the CCB Police Station. In four major cases alone, five accused persons were taken into custody.

During the operations, police seized seven mobile phones worth Rs 1.10 lakh, cash amounting to Rs 1,06,433 and betting chips valued at Rs 13.37 crore. Officials stated that the accused were running betting activities using online platforms. Further investigation is underway to identify others linked to the network. —BMB

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## CCB, city police recover narcotics worth Rs 1.2 crore

In two separate anti-narcotics operations in Bengaluru, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) Narcotics Suppression Squad and the Jeevan Bheema Nagar police seized narcotic substances worth Rs 1.20 crore, with an estimated market value of Rs 2.40 crore. On May 21, 2026, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) Narcotics Suppression Squad seized 3.312 kg of banned hydro ganja worth Rs 1.16 crore during a raid conducted at the International Post Office under the limits of Kempegowda Nagar Police Station. The operation was carried out based on information by Customs officials about suspicious parcels that had arrived from abroad through the Postal Department's international courier network.

Addressing reporters on May 26, Seemant Kumar Singh said the accused were sourcing narcotic substances from foreign countries through international parcels. During the raid, officers found hydro ganja concealed inside the packages and later arrested Kiran Kumar, Samar Ali and Ithahas Khureshi in connection with the racket. A case has been registered at Kempegowda Nagar Police Station and further investigations are underway.

In another operation on May 22, the Jeevan Bheema Nagar police raided Tunnel Road and intercepted a Kerala-registered car allegedly being used to sell narcotic substances. Police arrested two interstate accused and seized 27 grams of MDMA, 1.272 kg of ganja and the car used for the offence. The accused have been remanded to judicial custody. —BMB

## Five arrested for breaking into home, jewellery shop

Five persons, including four interstate accused, were arrested by the Whitefield police in connection with two separate theft cases involving a house burglary and a jewellery shop theft. Police recovered 584 grams of gold ornaments, Rs 9.85 lakh cash, a car and a watch, collectively valued at Rs 1.16 crore.

According to police, two cases were registered at the Whitefield Police Station after gold ornaments, cash and a costly watch were stolen from a house on March 14, 2026, while another theft involving gold ornaments from a jewellery shop was reported on May 16, 2026.

Police tracked down four accused in Hyderabad on different dates, while another accused linked to the second case was secured in Shivajinagar, Bengaluru. During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to the crimes. Based on their information, police recovered the stolen property from different locations. All the accused have been remanded to judicial custody. —BMB

## Group held for kidnapping, assaulting student

The Soladevanahalli police have arrested five persons for allegedly kidnapping and assaulting a 19-year-old student. Police said the case came to light after the victim's mother filed a complaint on May 23. The victim was reportedly called to Hesaraghatta Road on May 22 by his friends over a vehicle-related issue. The accused allegedly snatched his bike key and forced his friends to transfer Rs 9,000 to one of the accused's accounts. They later took him to a hotel room, where they allegedly stripped him naked, filmed him and demanded Rs 1 lakh. Police said the accused were enraged as the victim was allegedly harassing the sister of one among them. Further investigation is underway. —BMB

## Duo behind burglary found to be jailed already

Byadarahalli police arrested two persons involved in a house-break theft case and recovered 470 grams of gold ornaments, 750 grams of silver articles, Rs 1.43 lakh cash and a two-wheeler collectively worth Rs 64.73 lakh.

Police said a case was registered on March 28, 2026, after a resident of D Group Layout, Lingabiranahalli, returned from a pilgrimage to Kashi and discovered that burglars had broken open the house door and window and stolen valuables and cash from a cupboard.

During investigation, police gathered credible information and found that the accused, who were already lodged in Chikkamagaluru district prison in connection with another case, were linked to the offence. After securing them on a body warrant, police interrogated the duo, who allegedly confessed to the crime. Based on their information, police recovered the stolen articles. —BMB

## Couple held for duping visually impaired friend

A couple has been arrested for allegedly cheating and stealing from their visually impaired friend, who had been residing with them for nearly eight years at their house in RR Nagar. The accused were identified as Sharmila Sheshadri (50) and her husband Ganesh Kumar (52). According to police, the victim had shifted her gold jewellery from one bank locker with plans to transfer it to another locker. Along with the ornaments, she had also kept Rs 49.5 lakh cash inside a cupboard at the couple's residence. Police said the victim retained the key herself. However, when she later attempted to access the valuables, the key was reportedly missing. Suspecting foul play, the woman arranged for a locksmith and discovered the valuables had disappeared. During investigation, the accused allegedly confessed to the crime. RR Nagar police recovered 232 grams of gold worth around Rs 35 lakh. Officials said efforts are underway to recover the remaining cash. —BMB


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# Former military personnel posted across K'taka jails

## Facing severe staff shortage, Karnataka prisons rope in 550 ex-servicemen on contract to strengthen jail security, with Parappana Agrahara alone needing 250 personnel

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**Bengaluru jails struggle attracting ex-servicemen despite lucrative contracts, while officials expand deployments statewide to reinforce surveillance, discipline and inmate monitoring systems**

In a first-of-its-kind move, the State Government is set to deploy former military personnel for prison security duties across the state, with Parappana Agrahara Central Prison alone requiring 250 ex-servicemen. The State Prison and Correctional Services Department has initiated the recruitment process to temporarily address the shortage of nearly 1,300 prison warders across 54 prisons in the state. Around 6,000 ex-servicemen from different districts, including Mysuru, have applied for 550 contract-based posts approved by the government.

Along with prison department staff and personnel from the Karnataka State Industrial Security Force (KSISF), retired soldiers will now help strengthen prison security amid repeated allegations of drugs, mobile phones and liquor being smuggled into jails, and inmates receiving undue privileges.

Officials said the recruitment is being carried out under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act, with the government also granting an exemption under Section 4(G) of the 1999 Act to directly source personnel through the Karnataka Ex-Servicemen Welfare Society. The selected candidates must be below 45 years of age, complete a 3 km run within 20 minutes, possess 'Shape One' physical fitness standards, and have no criminal background. The state will spend Rs 1.87 crore every month on salaries for the recruits. Apart from Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara prison, which requires 250 personnel, deployments are planned for Kalaburagi (55), Mysuru (45), Belagavi Hindalga (35), Shivamogga (30), Mangaluru (20), Mandya (15), Tumakuru (10), Hassan (10) and Madikeri (10), among others.

However, prison authorities are facing difficulties filling positions in Bengaluru because most applicants from North Karnataka prefer postings in their home districts. Officials said the monthly salary of Rs 30,000, with take-home pay of around Rs 28,800, is proving unattractive given Bengaluru's high cost of living, leading many ex-servicemen to avoid postings in the city's prisons.

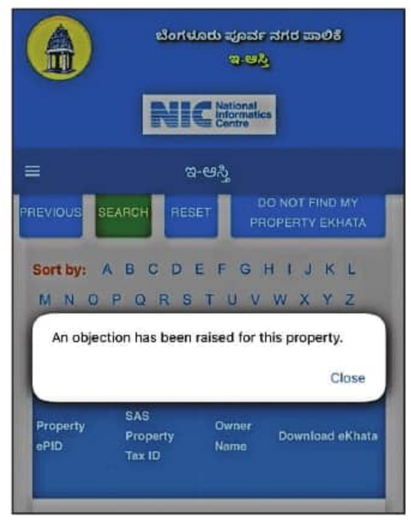
# Online objection, offline registration

## Injunction ignored, disputed Bengaluru property registered after alleged two-hour e-khata access granted by civic officials and registrar authorities

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If you are one of those content with filing an objection online to block the issuance of a final e-khata of your property to others, you may have to think twice before trusting the revenue authorities of the respective City Corporation. An e-khata is a crucial document for the registration of a property, helping to avoid duplication and fraud. However, a Sub-Registrar in Banaswadi allegedly not only violated an injunction order issued by the City Civil Court but also colluded with Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) revenue officials to temporarily unblock the EPID (e-khata) for two hours to facilitate the registration of a property in Survey No. 65 situated in Vijinapura village, Mahadevapura Hobli.

The case concerns Yatish M, one of the property owners in Survey No. 65, who filed an objection online through Aadhaar authentication with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The objection sought to block the e-khatas of 73 residential sites in an area referred to as Manjunatha Layout Phase 2. The objection was filed on March 10, 2026. The bbmpeaasthi.karnataka.gov.in portal also confirmed the blocking of e-khatas for the 73 residential sites. However, residential Site No. 83 was sold and registered on March 18, 2026, at the Banaswadi Sub-Registrar's Office. Despite sufficient documents being submitted relating to the injunction orders and the online blocking of the e-khata, the property was sold and registered without any hurdles.


ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪೂರ್ವ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಇ-ಆಸ್ತಿ
NIC National Informatics Centre
ಇ-ಆಸ್ತಿ
PREVIOUS
SEARCH
RESET
DO NOT FIND MY PROPERTY EKHATA
Sort by: A B C D E F G H I J K L
M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
An objection has been raised for this property.
Close
Property ePID
SAS Property Tax ID
Owner Name
Download eKhata

**Bbmpeaasthi portal indicating that there is an objection to the property**

Upon enquiry, authorities at the GBA informed the complainant that e-khatas can be unblocked for a certain period to facilitate the registration of such properties at the respective Sub-Registrar offices.

It is alleged that a former minister is behind the sale of the property, and it is further alleged that attempts are being made to sell more residential sites by unblocking the e-khatas of the remaining sites in Manjunatha Layout.

After learning about the registration of one of the sites, Yatish M again sent letters appealing to the authorities concerned to ensure that no site is registered through fraudulent means under political pressure or money power.

When contacted, District Registrar (Shivajinagar) Bharati AN said she would look into the matter if the complainant provided all the relevant documents.

## Ranveer visits Mysuru temple

Actor Ranveer Singh visited the Chamundeshwari Temple in Mysuru on Tuesday, days after controversy erupted over both the Kantara mimicry case and his exit from Don 3. The visit came in compliance with a direction issued by the Karnataka High Court while hearing the case linked to his imitation of a Daiva performance from Kantara.

The controversy dates back to the closing ceremony of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa in November 2025, where Ranveer recreated a Daiva sequence associated with the film and actor-director Rishab Shetty. The act sparked criticism from sections of the Kannadiga community and cultural groups, who claimed that a sacred Bhoota Kola tradition had been disrespected.

Following the backlash and legal proceedings, the actor submitted a revised affidavit before the Karnataka High Court and issued an unconditional apology, maintaining that there had been no intention to offend religious sentiments or local traditions. The court later directed him to offer prayers at the Chamundeshwari Temple within four weeks before closing the matter.

Ranveer reportedly travelled quietly to Mysuru and entered the temple like a regular devotee. He was seen wearing a mask until he reached the sanctum, where he offered special prayers to Goddess Chamundeshwari. Videos and photographs from the visit later surfaced on social media. The temple visit also came amid fresh controversy surrounding the actor after the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) issued a non-cooperation directive against him over his sudden exit from Don 3, which reportedly caused financial losses to the production.

— BMB

## SC rejects cabinet rank plea

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a plea challenging the Karnataka government's decision to grant cabinet rank to 42 legislators, including MLAs and MLCs, as heads of various boards and corporations. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked the petitioner to file a review petition before the High Court. "We dispose of this petition with liberty to the petitioner to file a review petition before the High Court," the bench said.

Senior advocate K Parameshwar, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the matter had not received the seriousness with which it ought to have been considered by the High Court. He said the department had no funds of its own, as the money came from the Consolidated Fund of India. The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Suri Payala, who works with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, challenging the Karnataka High Court's March 4 order dismissing his plea. "We also find merit in the contention that the present petition is not entirely in public interest, but is also occasioned by the petitioner's aspirations for certain posts. It is settled that the petitioner, who seeks to file a public interest litigation, is bound to disclose his possible interest in the litigation. In this case, the petitioner has failed to make the full disclosure as required," the High Court had said.

The plea argued that bestowing cabinet status on these legislators resulted in financial benefits such as higher salaries, official vehicles, drivers, fuel allowances, House Rent Allowances (HRA) and medical reimbursements. The petition said this constituted an "office of profit" and contravened Article 191 of the Constitution, which disqualifies legislators from holding such positions.

The petitioner asserted that appointing Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) as chairpersons of various boards and corporations would not have been problematic. However, conferring cabinet status upon them violated Article 164(1A) of the Constitution, which limits the size of the council of ministers to prevent unwarranted government expansion, the plea submitted. The plea highlighted that on January 26, 2025, the state government issued an order granting cabinet rank to 34 legislators, in addition to the eight who already held the status. This raised concerns over a single government notification appointing such a large number of legislators to cabinet-level positions.

The petition challenged the cabinet-rank appointments on the grounds that they violated Articles 102, 191 and 164 of the Constitution, as well as the Karnataka Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1956, and Section 10 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The plea warned that allowing such appointments would set a dangerous precedent, encouraging legislators to seek additional roles and perks, thereby undermining legislative integrity.

The petitioner also claimed that extending cabinet rank to a select group of legislators was arbitrary, violated principles of natural justice, and eroded public trust.

— PTI

### Captain's sensational innings help RCB post challenging total that proved to be too tall a task for Gujarat

# Bengaluru, that's how the cookie crumbles

## Show must go on

General view inside the stadium during the half time show; Two artists play violins during an innings break

Virat Kohli reacts after his dismissal

Gujarat Titans' Sai Sudharsan loses the grip of his bat as he plays a shot, and the bat hit the stumps

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Rasikh Dar, left, celebrates with teammate Krunal Pandya after the dismissal of Gujarat Titans' Jason Holder

Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar celebrates after scoring a half-century

Royal Challengers Bengaluru bowlers made quick work of Gujarat Titans' batting order after raking up 254 bolstered by captain Rajat Patidar's sensational unbeaten knock of 93 in Qualifier 1 of IPL 2026 at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium on Tuesday.

For Bengaluru, Virat Kohli and Krunal Pandya also chipped in with quickfire 43s to give the team a record-breaking total.

By the time Gujarat came out to bat, things were looking bleak and when the wickets started falling like ninepins, Bengaluru's celebrations reached peak fervour. Jacob Duffy and Rasikh Salam picked up quick wickets, aided by all others in the bowling line-up.

Asked to bat first after losing the toss, RCB came out with aggressive intent right from the opening over. Venkatesh Iyer gave the innings a flying start by taking on former RCB pacer Mohammed Siraj. The left-hander smashed three boundaries in the opening over and continued his attacking approach against Kagiso Rabada, hammering a six before falling on the very next delivery.

Trying to pull a short ball, Iyer miscued his shot, and Shubman Gill completed a superb catch. The opener's entertaining cameo ended at 19 off just seven deliveries, an innings studded with three fours and a six.

Despite the early wicket, RCB's momentum never slowed down. Devdutt Padikkal joined Virat Kohli in the middle, and the pair launched a fierce counterattack against the Gujarat bowlers. Kohli looked in sublime touch as he drove Siraj for boundaries, while Padikkal targeted Rabada with three successive fours in one over.

Kohli then took complete control in the final over of the Power-play, smashing Rabada for two boundaries and a six to propel RCB to 76/1, their highest Power-play total of the season.

Just when RCB appeared set for an even bigger assault, the Gujarat Titans made a breakthrough via Jason Holder. Kohli, attempting another attacking stroke, saw the ball take the edge and crash into the stumps. The former RCB captain departed for a fluent 43 off 25 balls, narrowly missing out on a half-century. His innings featured five fours and a six.

Holder struck again in the same over to bring Gujarat back briefly into the contest. Padikkal edged an outswinger behind after a brisk 30 off 19 deliveries that included five boundaries. From 91/1, RCB suddenly slipped to 102/3.

However, skipper Rajat Patidar ensured the innings stayed firmly on course. Promoted up the order, Krunal Pandya joined his captain, and the duo rebuilt the innings smartly before shifting gears dramatically in the middle overs.

Krunal began the acceleration by smashing a six off Prasidh Krishna, while Patidar initially took time to settle before exploding into action. The RCB captain also enjoyed a slice of luck when Gujarat fielders dropped him twice in the same over during the 13th over.

Jitesh Sharma also played a useful cameo of 15 as RCB crossed the 250-run mark, registering the highest total ever recorded in IPL playoff history.

—Agencies

**Today's battle**
Sunrisers Hyderabad
vs
Rajasthan Royals
7.30 PM Chandigarh

## Yet another milestone for Kohli

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batting icon Virat Kohli became the first Indian Premier League (IPL) in history to register four successive 600-run seasons on Tuesday.

Virat achieved this milestone in the Qualifier one against the Gujarat Titans (GT), scoring a quickfire 43 in 25 balls, with five fours and a six at a strike rate of 172.00.

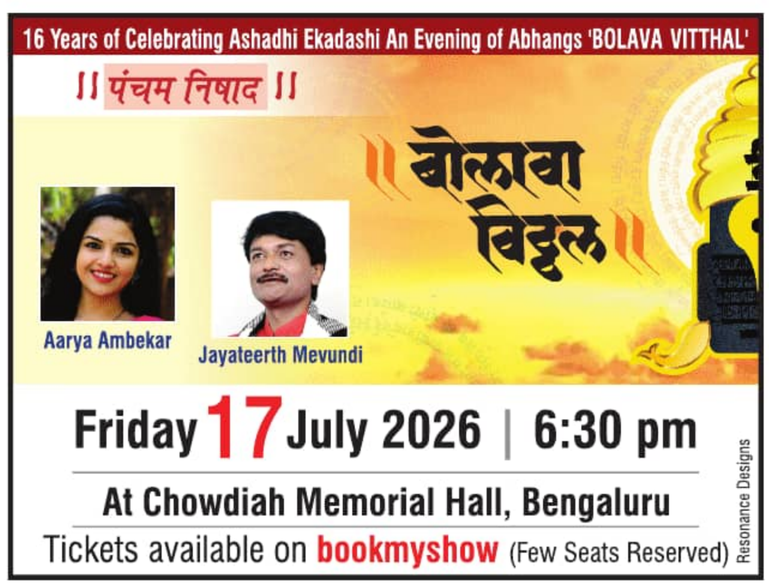
In 15 innings this season, Virat has scored 600 runs at an average of 50.00 and a strike rate of 164.38 (his best in a season), with a century and four fifties and a best score of 105*.

After suffering a slump during the 2022-season, where he made just 341 runs in 16 matches at an average of 22.73 with just two fifties, Virat's comeback in the IPL and reinvention as a T20 cricketer has been extraordinary, especially considering his growing age and the fact he retired from T20Is after 2024 T20 World Cup, improving his numbers season by season in different aspects.

In the 2023 season, it was a comeback, as he ended with 639 runs in 14 innings at an average of 53.25 and a strike rate of 139.82, with two centuries and six fifties. His best score was 101* and he was the fourth-highest run-getter of the tournament.

The next season saw him improve his game against spin and unleash some of his most brutal six-hitting in years. Last season, he was instrumental in RCB's title win, leading their batting from the front, with his excellent adaptability and tempos in different conditions. He was the third-highest run-getter in the tournament with 657 runs in 15 innings at an average of 54.75 and a strike rate of 144.71, with eight fifties.

—PTI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Resonance Designs

# Caffeine was detected in most of the studied sites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

runoff. Lakes such as Bellandur, Madiwala, Hebbal, Kukkarahalli, and Karanji were chosen based on their ecological sensitivity and historical importance as water bodies surrounded by dense human settlements. Groundwater was sampled from peri-urban and urbanised regions such as Electronic City, Whitefield, Yelahanka, Rajajinagar, Koramangala, and JP Nagar, which are some of the most densely populated areas in the city that receive a major portion of the municipal water supply. These areas were selected because they are highly prone to leaching from unregulated septic systems and landfills and are located in close proximity to untreated sewage drains.

The highest concentration of pollutants from pharmaceutical and personal care products was found in the Vrishabhavathi River, followed by Hebbal Lake and Madiwala Lake.

The highest levels of contamination were observed in surface waters, especially in locations receiving direct industrial effluents or sewage. Certain sites exhibited very high cumulative PPCP concentrations, including 540.35 µg/L of norfloxacin (antibiotic), 302.78 µg/L of diclofenac (anti-inflammatory), and 712.6 µg/L of naproxen (anti-inflammatory).

Bellandur Lake, with residential and commercial surroundings, also recorded a very high naproxen concentration (650.1 µg/L), suggesting sewage inflow as a probable source of contamination.

Groundwater sources, in general, had lower levels of PPCPs but were not free from contamination.

Industrial or densely populated regions, such as groundwater in Electronic City and groundwater in Whitefield, had quantifiable amounts of all five PPCPs, i.e., norfloxacin (30.81 µg/L and 27.52 µg/L, respectively), suggesting potential leaching from surface sources or septic tank effluent infiltration.

In contrast, less urbanised groundwater sites, such as groundwater in Kengeri, Koramangala, and Rajajinagar, exhibited relatively lower levels. Moreover, caffeine remained detectable in most of these sites, reflecting extensive domestic sewage influence.

"The finding of substances linked to human use and clinical use, like caffeine, diclofenac, and norfloxacin, supports the assumption that wastewater is a primary source, mainly discharging of hospital wastewater and discarding leftover medicines. Other likely sources of these harmful compounds also include personal care products such as perfumes, cosmetics, shampoo, shower gel, etc.," said Harikaranahalli Puttaiah Shivaraju of International Center of Environment and Sustainability (ICESu), JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research in Mysuru.

# Bank update that never was

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

messages, luring victims into downloading applications disguised as bank updates, courier tracking apps, KYC verification tools, electricity bill payment apps, PM Kisan Yojana, Pension updates, wedding invitation or penalty notices to deceive users. Once installed, the malicious APK file gains access to the device, allowing fraudsters to monitor messages, steal banking credentials, intercept OTPs, and remotely control mobile phones.

Some recent cases indicate how vulnerable the elderly are: A 63-year-old Vittal Mallya Road resident lost ₹1.9 lakh after receiving a fake traffic violation message; an 86-year-old Bengaluru resident was cheated of ₹7.69 lakh through a malicious WhatsApp link sent as a credit card security alert; in Udupi, a 66-year-old lost over ₹9 lakh after fraudsters sent a fake Mahanagar Gas Bill Update file claiming a small pending payment.

Chetan Anand explained that many elderly people trust messages appearing to come from banks, telecom providers, or government agencies. "Many senior citizens are unaware of what an ".apk" file is and often mistake malicious attachments shared on WhatsApp for harmless documents. These scams usually rely on users granting extensive permissions, such as access to SMS messages, screen viewing, or device controls. Elderly users often click "allow" on pop-up requests without understanding the risks, unknowingly giving scammers access to OTPs and sensitive information," he said.

He said they may find it difficult to identify fake links, suspicious files, or distinguish between official app stores and direct downloads.

"They are also less likely to verify suspicious messages through official websites or fraud-detection tools before responding or taking action. Cybercriminals exploit these vulnerabilities to gain access to devices and financial information," he said.

"Senior citizens belong to a generation that tends to trust official-looking messages. Earlier, people could identify fake links or scams through obvious spelling mistakes, but with AI, cyber frauds have become far more sophisticated. Senior citizens often struggle to detect errors or distinguish between AI-generated images, videos, and real content," he explained.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told Bangalore Mirror about the measures taken. "Apart from regular awareness drives on social media platforms, officials are also spreading awareness through community outreach initiatives such as Mane Mane Gu Police and Aasare.

Police officials have profiled senior citizens and created awareness about personal safety and security. As part of these programmes, police personnel directly interact with residents in neighbourhoods, apartment complexes, and local communities to educate them about cyber safety, suspicious links, and online financial frauds," he said.

Chetan Anand advised people to install reliable licenced antivirus, as it can help detect and block suspicious APK files. He also urged families to regularly educate parents and elderly members about cyber frauds and caution them against sharing OTPs or transferring money based on unknown calls.

In case of cyber fraud, victims should immediately report the incident by calling 1930 within 72 hours,visiting cybercrime.gov.in, or approaching the nearest police station.

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## real estate

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## CHANGE OF NAME

**I,** Sainath Chalasani, R/o No. 14, Kala nidhie, 5th Cross, 4th Main, Pampa Extension, Hebbal Kempapura, Bengaluru-560024 have changed my daughter name (minor) from Sravya Chalasani to Sravya Sai Chalasani.

**I,** Nitesh S/o Jayanthilal R/o Flat No 3fa No 13 Symboisis Royale Govindappa Road Gandhibazaar Basavanagudi Bengaluru - 560004 Have Changed My Name to Nitesh Bhandari for All Purposes.

**I,** Jai Kishan P R/o No 936 2nd Main 4th Block Rajaji Nagar Bangalore 560010 have changed my minor daughter's name from Mehar Panchariya to Meera Panchariya.

**I,** Martina Mary Martin W/o Leon Anthony D Monte R/o No 80, G 1, Bhanu Pride Apartment, Kacharak anahalli, St Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru-560084. Have Changed My Name to Martina Mary D Monte for All Purposes.

**I,** Barot Nareshkumar Chimanlal. R/o Flat.304, 3rd floor, Tirumala facing Apt, Akshay Nagar, Yelenahalli, Bengaluru 560068 have Change my name to Naresh Barot. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

**I,** DHRUV GOWDA K S/o Y S Keshava My Dob 15-02-2006 residing at No 275 Raithara santhe road near KHB colony Yelahanka Bangaluru. Shall henceforth be known as DHRUV GOWDA K for all purposes

**I,** SUJAYA alias SUJAYA KUMAR, Residing at D-2, III Floor, Sapthagiri Residency, 1st Cross, K. C. Halli Main Road, Behind Siri Convention Hall, Bilekahalli, Bengaluru-560076, I here by declare that SUJAYA and SUJAYA KUMAR both the names are same vide affidavit dated 26/05/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

**I,** JAYALAKSHMI VENKATARAMSHASTRI R/at 10, G. Flr, 17 Main, M C Lyt, Vijayanagar, Bangalore 560040 have changed my name to JAYALAKSHMI VENKATARAMASHASTRI vide affidavit dated 26.05.2026 sworn before notary V. RANGARAMU, BANGALORE.

**I,** Lavanya Rajashekar, #136/1, Old Post Office Rd, KR Puram Market, Krishnarajapuram, B'lore - 36 have changed my Minor Daughter name from HANSIKA to HANSIKA MANJUNATH REDDY Vide aff Dt.22/05/2026 sworn before Notary Devraja E. B'lore.

**I,** Prasanth P aged 43 years S/O Puttaswamy.B R/o No.135, Shri Shiva Krupa, Krishnagiri Police layout,Chudenapura Post , Kodipalya Kengeri Bangalore - 60 have changed my name to Prashanth P vide Affidavit dt 24/5/26 Notary P.Vijayakumar Bangalore

**I,** BALAKRISHNA R/at Flat FTH, 4 Floor, 1 Cross, MLA Layout, Kalena Agrahara, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to BALAKRISHNA YARAPOTHINA vide affidavit dated 22/05/2026 sworn before notary V. RANGARAMU, BANGALORE

**I** Suma Lakshminarayana W/o Lakshminarayana B K R/o No 142,Lakshmi Nivasa, 7th Cross,Magadi Main Road,rashi Residency, Kadabagere, B'luru 562130 have changed my name to Suma Gangadhar.

**I,** NISHAL B, R/o #426, Akshaya, D Block, 4th floor, Garden Square, 2nd Main, Vinayaka Layout, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore - 560061, have changed my name to NISHAL BEEGAMUDRE.

**I,** BABY alias BHAVYA S SHETTIGAR, Residing at D-2, III Floor, Sapthagiri Residency, 1st Cross, K. C. Halli Main Road, Behind Siri Convention Hall, Bilekahalli, Bengaluru-560076, I here by declare that BABY and BHAVYA S SHETTIGAR both the names are same vide affidavit dated 26/05/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

**I,** SIDDALINGAPPA M T father of M S ANVITHA residing at 787, 10th Cross, D Group Employes Layout, Srigandakavel, Bengaluru-560072 have changed my minor daughter name from M S ANVITHA to AVISHKA NAVYA GOWDA vide affidavit dated 25-05-2026 sworn before notary T V Bhadravijaya Bangalore

**I,** Sushmitha Kamath R/o C-608 Rajsri Apts, Kenchenahalli Main Rd Pattanagere Rajaraj - eshwarinagar B'lore-560098 have changed my name to Sushmitha Jagadeesh Kamath.

## LOST & FOUND

**PROVISIONAL** Allotment Letter dated 15.04.1983 and Possession Certificate dated 19.03.1985 issued by MUDA in favour of Mr. K. N. Subba Rao are misplaced/lost. Police complaint No. 2209419/2026 lodged and closed. Finders may contact Amitha, Ph-9449856395. Misuse is illegal.

## tender & notices

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby given notice that our client is intending to purchase the schedule Property from its present owner **Mrs. Corrine Kumar D'Souza W/o. Late Sri. F.A. D'Souza,** Permanently R/at No.40, M.E.G. Colony, Banasawadi Road, Bangalore - 560 033. In the event any one has any objection or claim over the Schedule Property they may file the same with documentary proof before the under signed within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which, the claim or claims if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and the transfer shall be completed.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of Immovable Property known as "Ashirvad", bearing No.30, St. Marks Road, Civil Station, Bangalore, now under the limits of BBMP Bangalore, assigned Municipal No.30 of St. Marks Road, assigned to **Ward No.76 - Richmond Town,** assigned **PID No. 76-20-30,** and bounded as follows:

**East by: Property No.30**
**West by: Road**
**North by: Property No.30**
**South by: Private Property**

For further details contact
Sd/- **NK Associates**
**Adv. N. Kumanan**
Mob: 9620096000
Mail:scorpionkulo@outlook.com

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# NO NEWS IS NOT GOOD NEWS

## Psychologist explains how news can be consumed in a way that doesn't cause fatigue

During several recent conversations, people have told me that they've stopped checking their phones in the morning. Not because nothing was happening, but because everything was. They described the feeling as standing under a waterfall of perpetual bad news.

This experience is far from an isolated one. According to Reuters Institute's 2025 Digital News Report, 69 per cent of Canadians at least occasionally avoid the news now.

Globally, 40 per cent report they at least sometimes or often do the same, the highest figure ever recorded. People shared consistent reasons for this: the news put them in a bad mood, they felt overwhelmed and powerless to act.

As a researcher in developmental psychology, focusing on social development and psychological well-being, I argue that news fatigue is not laziness, weakness or a generational decline in civic interest. It's the predictable response of a human brain meeting an environment it was never designed to navigate.

### Wired for bad news

Long before smartphones or even the printing press, our cognitive architecture was shaped by a single problem: stay alive long enough to reproduce. Our ancestors whose attention drifted past the rustle in the grass left fewer descendants than those who froze, looked and listened.

The brain that paid attention to threats was the brain that survived.

### Scanning the whole world

For most of human history, the threats our nervous system processed were local. A neighbouring tribe. A drought. The illness of a child we personally knew. Information about distant places would barely arrive, and if it did, it was mainly irrelevant.

In 2026, the same neurological system is being asked to absorb a war in one region, a financial shock in another, a climate disaster in a third and a violent crime in a fourth, all before lunchtime.

A study published in the scientific journal Nature Human Behaviour examined more than 105,000 real news headlines viewed nearly six million times. Each additional negative word increased click-through rates, while positive words had the opposite effect.Recent studies suggest people around the world demonstrate measurably stronger physiological responses to negative news than to positive news. Some researchers have introduced a clinical framework for what happens in this instance called Problematic News Consumption (PNC) - a pattern of news engagement that results in preoccupation, dysregulation and disruption to daily functioning. In their 2022 study, the researchers found that 17 per cent of American adults qualified as having severe levels of PNC. Among that group, 61 per cent reported feeling unwell quite a bit or very much, compared with six per cent of those who didn't.

For minority populations, news fatigue may be even more consequential.

Repeatedly witnessing harm directed at our own groups, even when we're not the immediate target, can have a significant psychological impact on people from the same group affiliation. For racialized communities, such as immigrants, the cognitive load could be even heavier, and the option to simply stop watching is much harder to exercise when the news is about their country of origin.

### Looking away is not the fix

What's the solution to news fatigue? Well, it's not avoidance. A democracy depends on informed citizens.

Many adults already cite the spread of misleading information as a major source of stress. Withdrawing from accurate, trustworthy information only deepens the problem. We're wired to pay more attention to bad news, and that kind of content will find its way to us one way or another.

The fix is to manage the consumption and the sources.

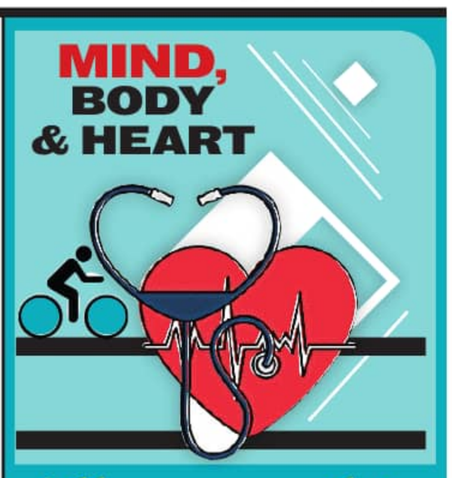
Several approaches can help manage news fatigue and protect mental health. Containing news consumption to defined windows of time reduces the sense of being overwhelmed. Choosing depth over volume also matters: one carefully reported long-form article will inform you better than bursts of random, unreliable and emotionally loaded posts on Instagram.

There is also value in distinguishing between information and action - research on perceived control and stress consistently shows that the gap between awareness and agency is one of the strongest predictors of psychological distress. Identifying what you can actually do about what you read in the news, however small, regulates that response.

Finally, be wary of "rage bait" - intentionally provocative messages or content designed to boost engagement on social media platforms by eliciting negative reactions. Recognizing that certain content creators want to provoke rather than reflect reality creates useful cognitive distance.

The news will not become less "heavy." But our relationship with it can become more deliberate. Our brains were not built for this scale of input. They were, however, built to learn to adapt.

*(By Ali Jasemi, Wilfrid Laurier University, The Conversation)*




## All you need to know about...

*Summer recovery*

**Beyond surface care**
Summer wellness conversations are changing as hydration, nutrition and recovery take centre stage. For years, summer care focused mainly on anti-tan facials, cooling masks and oil-control products. Now, experts are shifting attention to how the body recovers from seasonal stress and how this directly reflects on the skin. Skin is increasingly being understood as a reflection of the body's overall resilience rather than just a cosmetic concern.

**Hidden seasonal stress**
Summer creates invisible stress on the body. Constant heat exposure, excessive air-conditioning, disrupted sleep cycles and frequent travel can affect hydration balance and weaken the skin barrier. What many describe as dullness or bad skin days may actually signal that the body is struggling to regulate itself effectively. Recovery has therefore become a key part of modern wellness routines.

**Hydration beyond water**
Hydration is no longer seen as simply drinking more water. Experts explain that skin hydration depends on mineral balance, sleep quality, gut health, circulation and stress regulation. A person may drink enough fluids yet still experience dehydration if the body cannot absorb or use them efficiently. This explains why skin often improves during restful holidays or emotionally calm periods.

**Recovery as wellness**
Nutrition discussions are also moving away from restriction and detox culture. Instead, emphasis is being placed on nourishment through proteins, healthy fats, antioxidants and balanced meals that support repair. Wellness today links healthy skin with better sleep, hormonal balance, stable energy and reduced inflammation. Recovery is becoming aspirational, shaping the future of summer skincare and wellness naturally. **—Femina**

**MIRRORLIGHTS**

## Duration of depression may impact severity of brain change: Study

The duration for which one remains depressed may impact how severely the mental disorder makes changes in the brain, according to a study.

Researchers from the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil and University of Oxford in the UK analysed brain images from 46 patients with major depression.

Results, published in the journal Scientific Reports, suggest that the duration of depressive episodes is associated with differences in functional brain connectivity. The findings could help with developing personalised treatments. "Major depression can alter brain function compared to people without the disorder," first author Tamires Zanao, a Sao Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) fellowship recipient, University of Sao Paulo, said.

However, the study identified that chronic patients, or those with depression for more than 24 months, and non-chronic ones displayed distinct connectivity patterns between two networks -- the central executive network (CEN), focused on executive control, and the default mode network (DMN), associated with introspective thoughts and self-reflection, Zanao said.

"The key finding was that chronicity moderated the impact of severity on functional connectivity between the Central Executive Network (CEN) and the precuneus (part of the Default Mode Network, DMN)," the authors wrote.

While typically, both the networks exhibit dynamics in coordination with the salience network -- involved in switching focus between the external environment and internal processes -- in depression, the dynamics may be altered, associated with symptoms such as rumination and difficulty concentrating, the researchers said. "That misalignment between networks may favour the predominance of introspective and self-referential thoughts, often with a negative bias," Zanao said. **—PTI**

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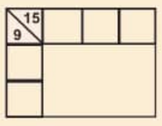
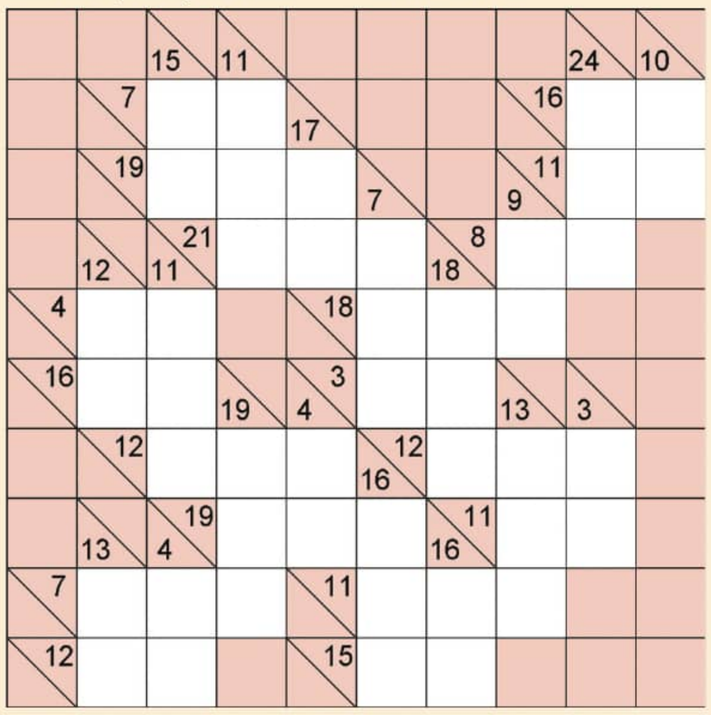
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror


## Kakuro

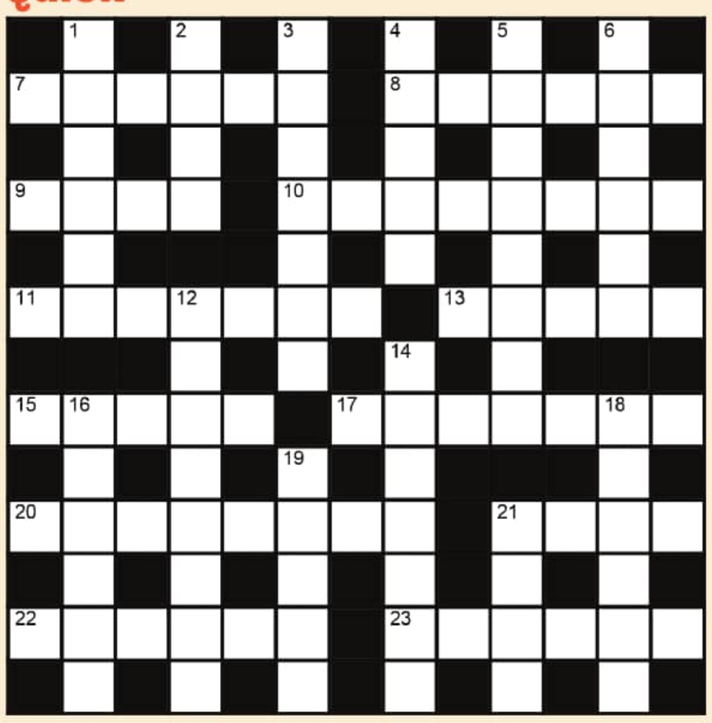
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 Small boats (6)
8 Spice or enliven (6)
9 At all times (4)
10 Improbable (8)
11 ____ up : fabricated or invented accusation, excuse etc.? (7)
13 Metallic-sounding (5)
15 Indications (5)
17 Capital of Sikkim (7)
20 It has 366 days (4,4)
21 Fan or enthusiast (4)
22 Greater in height (6)
23 Ink-drawing on skin (6)

**DOWN**

1 One who evades work (6)
2 From a distance (4)
3 Told with confidence (7)
4 Biblical song (5)
5 Causing persistent annoyance or resentment (8)
6 Strong cotton fabric (6)
12 Popular board game (8)
14 Theatre on Varthur Road (7)
16 Polar surface (3-3)
18 Going __ ___ : walking? (2,4)
19 Cogs with teeth (5)
21 Together as a pair? (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: A EQUALS O**

SN UHGFNMG HMV XMVNQOGHMVFMD. JFZN FO GAA OKAQG GA SN LNMDNZXJ AQ CHJFIFAXO.

**Linemaro**

Is your name Charity? Because my heart is running for you

**Mindchow**

To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains but to live in a way that respects the freedom of others

**Joke of the day**

It is never difficult to distinguish between a Scotsman with a grievance and a ray of sunshine: P G Wodehouse.

## Loop

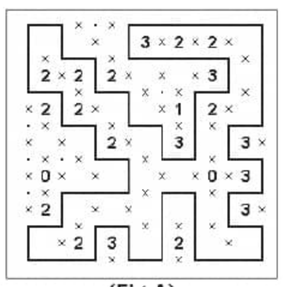
### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

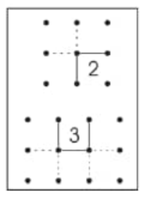
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

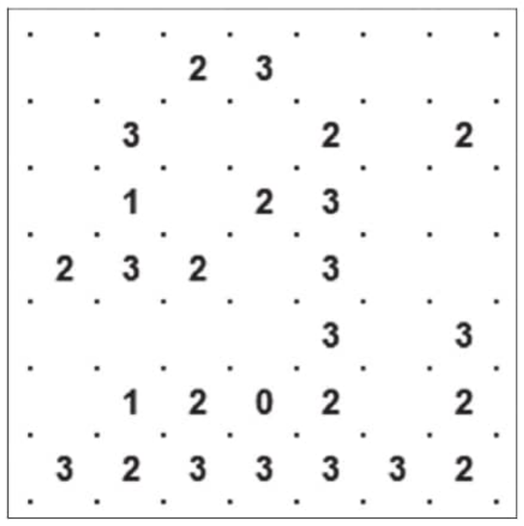
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



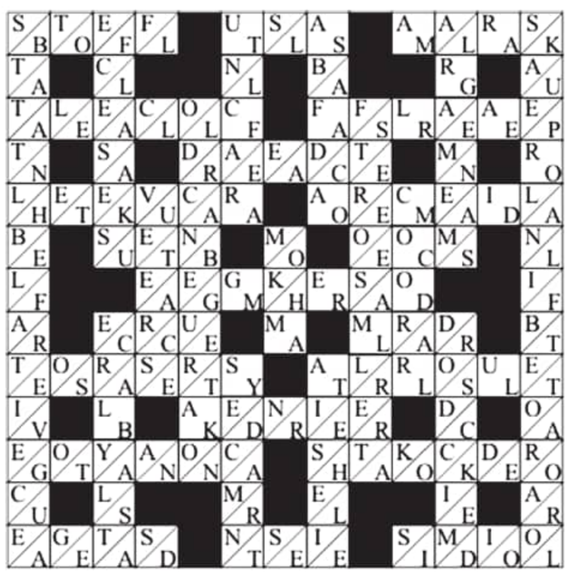
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | C | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |

**ACROSS**

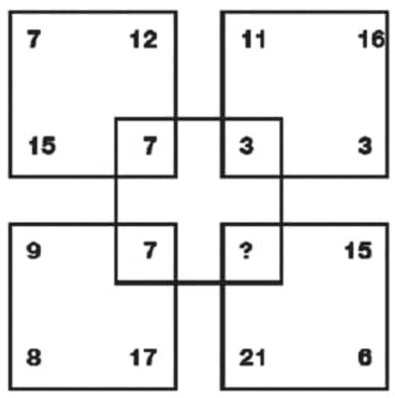
1 Papal; 6 Ilo up; 7 Coign; 8 Genoa; 9 Toner

**DOWN**

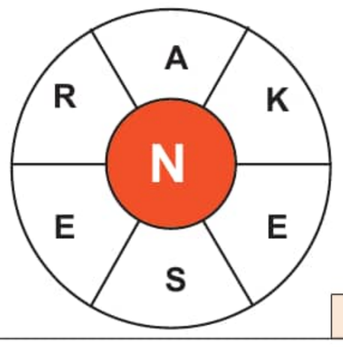
1 A pain; 2 On GPO; 3 Optic; 4 An Leo; 5 Gruel

## Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the sequence?




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; 13 Good; 15 Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 8 | 7 | | 2 | 1 | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 9 | | 3 | 8 | | 1 | 5 | | 4 |
| 6 | | | | 1 | | | | 7 |
| | | | 6 | | 9 | | | |
| 2 | | | | 7 | | | | 1 |
| 3 | | 7 | 1 | | 6 | 2 | | 9 |
| 5 | | | | | | | | 8 |
| | | 2 | 4 | | 7 | 6 | | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

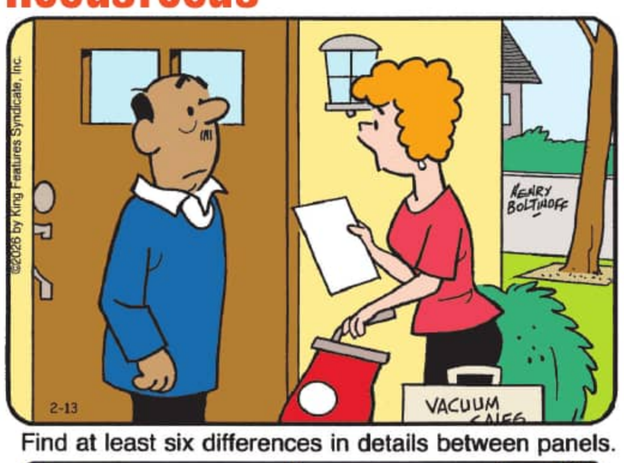
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 1
2 3 6 8

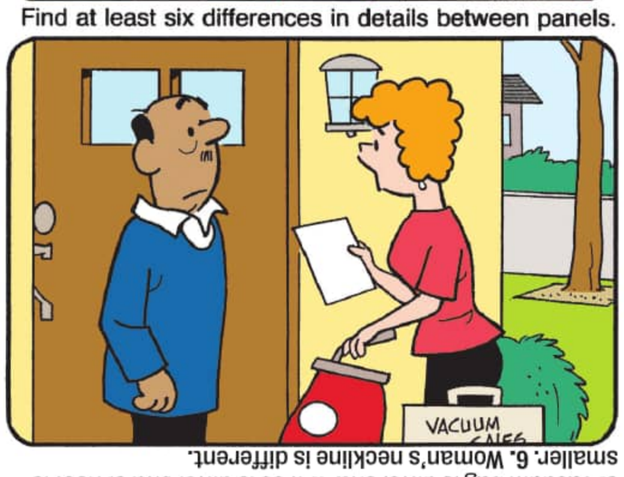
**Medium** = 9
2 4 7 7

**Hard** = 34
2 6 7 8

## Hocusfocus




Find at least six differences in details between panels.



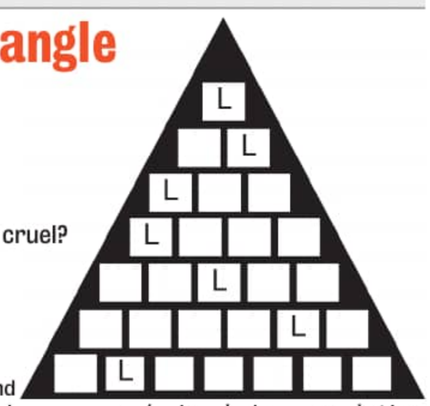

**Differences:** 1. Paper is shorter. 2. Bush is smaller. 3. Vacuum bag is different. 4. Tree is different. 5. Roof is smaller. 6. Woman's neckline is different.

## Riddler

Fill in the blanks to create three English phrases, in which all of the words in the blanks are anagrams of each other. ____ Clear

## Alpha triangle

1 Litre
2 Spanish article
3 Set the pace
4 Silver vein
5 Meted out
6 Draw idly
7 Cold-: callous or cruel?

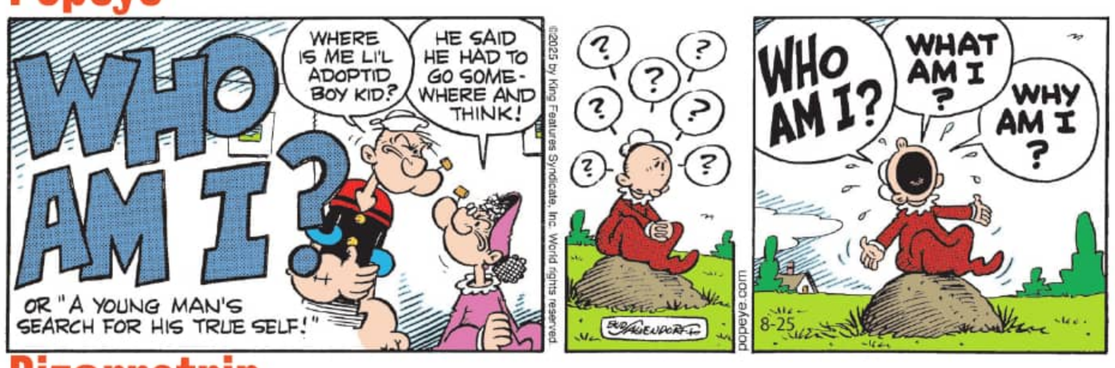



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Popeye


WHO AM I?
OR "A YOUNG MAN'S SEARCH FOR HIS TRUE SELF!"
WHERE IS ME LI'L ADOPTID BOY KID?
HE SAID HE HAD TO GO SOME-WHERE AND THINK!
WHO AM I?
WHAT AM I ?
WHY AM I ?
8-25
popeye.com

## Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 2-13-26
Viola! See, magicians usually say "voilà," or "here it is" in French, but this is a viola. It's similar to a violin, but with a lower pitch.
THE AMAZING MANSPLAINO
BIZARRO.COM

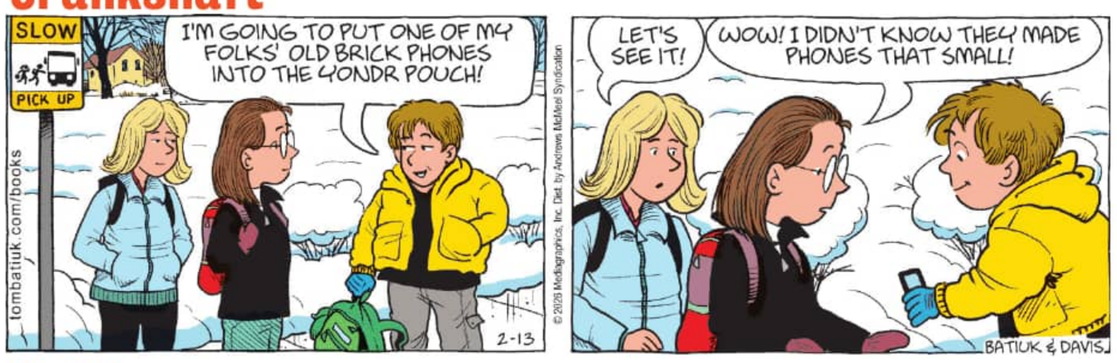
## Diamond Lil

AND NOW, "COOKING WITH HERCULES"
WELCOME. TODAY WE'LL BE PREPARING A DELICIOUS ROAST LION...
FIRST, KILL ONE WITH YOUR BARE HANDS
I SHOULD BE WRITING THIS DOWN
www.creators.com

## Hart of the city

I MADE YOU THIS CARD. AND YOU SAID THAT YOU WANTED TO DO A REWATCH OF ALL OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS MOVIES.
SO I WROTE UP A SCHEDULE AND TASTING MENU TO HAVE AN 18-HOUR LOTR MARATHON/ DATE!
IT'S PERFECT. THANK YOU! I CAN'T WAIT TO EAT SECOND BREAKFAST WITH YOU.
OH, THE ROMANCE OF BEING KNOWN!!
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

## Crankshaft


SLOW
PICK UP
I'M GOING TO PUT ONE OF MY FOLKS' OLD BRICK PHONES INTO THE YONDR POUCH!
LET'S SEE IT!
WOW! I DIDN'T KNOW THEY MADE PHONES THAT SMALL!
tombatiuk.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS

## Mutts

# WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

## If it's your birthday today

Deep introspection leads to a career shift. You are re-evaluating what "success" actually means to you. This year, you may choose a path that offers more personal meaning, even if it seems less conventional. Your spiritual practices provide a solid anchor during this transition. Trust that you are being led toward a more fulfilling and authentically aligned life.

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Intuition is heightened, providing glimpses into a friend's hidden struggles. Offer a listening ear without judgment. Your quiet support means more than any grand gesture could ever possibly convey today.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Creativity flows effortlessly into your professional life. Use your aesthetic eye to improve a project's presentation. Your attention to detail will be noticed and highly praised by your upper management.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Your mental energy is high, making it a great day for brainstorming. Collaborate with others to develop new and exciting ideas. Your enthusiasm is contagious and inspires everyone around you.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Emotional clarity allows you to resolve a long-standing conflict. Approach the situation with honesty and vulnerability. Finding common ground brings a sense of peace and strengthens your important personal relationships.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
A bold move in your professional life pays off. Trust your instincts and take a calculated risk. Your courage and determination lead to a significant achievement and increased career recognition.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Focus on your spiritual well-being. Spend time in nature or practice mindfulness. Connecting with something larger than yourself brings a sense of perspective and helps you find inner peace today.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Social connections bring joy and inspiration. Attend a gathering or reach out to a friend. Your ability to connect with others on a deep level is a truly beautiful gift.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Deep research leads to a fascinating discovery. Your curiosity and persistence pay off. Share your findings with others to spark a meaningful discussion and expand everyone's understanding of the subject.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
A sense of adventure leads you to try something new. Step outside your comfort zone and embrace the unknown. The experience brings a fresh perspective and fuels your natural wanderlust.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Professional persistence leads to a successful outcome. Don't give up on a difficult project. Your hard work and dedication are finally rewarded with the results you have been striving for.

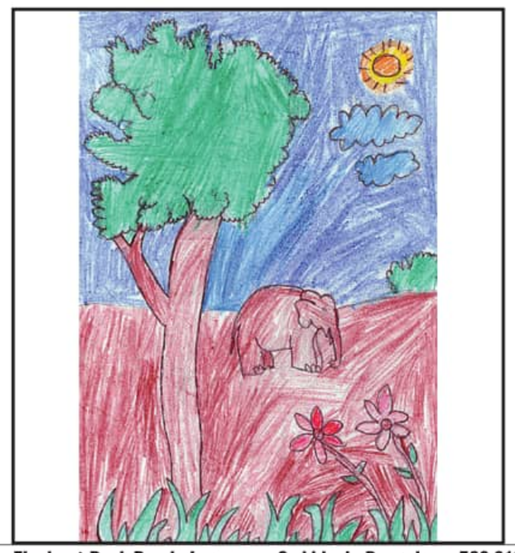
**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your humanitarian efforts make a positive impact. Find a way to contribute to a cause you care about. Your dedication to making the world a better place is truly inspiring.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Artistic inspiration strikes in the most unexpected places. Pay attention to the beauty around you. Your unique vision allows you to see the world in a way that others don't.

www.sundeepkochar.com

# KIDZONE

Desh, Bengaluru



Vivek, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
2^4 + 2^9 x 1/2^4
2^4 + 2^(9 - 4)
2^4 + 2^5
16 + 32 = 48

**RIDDLER**
Steer clear, Palm trees & Reset Button

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | O | F | F | U | S | A | M | A | R | S |
| A | L | | L | | B | | R | | U | |
| T | L | A | L | O | C | | A | S | L | E | E | P |
| T | S | | R | R | E | A | C | T | | N | | R |
| L | E | K | V | A | R | | A | R | M | A | D | A |
| E | S | E | N | | O | | E | O | S | | L | |
| F | | E | G | G | H | E | A | D | | M | A | R | T |
| A | C | R | U | | M | | M | A | R | | T | |
| T | O | A | S | T | Y | | A | L | L | O | U | T |
| G | O | A | N | N | A | | S | T | O | K | E | R |
| I | | B | | A | E | R | I | E | | C | | O |
| G | A | N | G | | | B | U | F | F | | | |
| A | | L | | R | | E | | L | | E | | A |
| U | | L | | | | I | | O | | | | |
| G | E | G | A | D | | N | E | E | I | D | O | L |

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | P | P | A | L |
| P | O | I | L | U |
| I | N | C | O | G |
| A | G | O | N | E |
| N | O | T | E | R |

**BULL'S EYE**
earn, keen, knee, nark, near, rank, sane, saner, sank, seen, snake, snare, sneak, SNEAKER, sneer

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | T | | H | | I | | S | |
| | | T | A | L | L | E | R | | S | |
| | | | T | | A | | T | T | O | O |
| | | | | | O | | I | | O | |
| | | | | | | | G | | G | |
| | | | | | J | | | | N | |
| T | R | U | M | P | E | D | | T | I | N | N | Y |
| | | E | | | | R | | M | | L | | I |
| E | V | E | R | | | U | N | U | I | K | E | L | Y |
| | I | | A | | S | | A | | N | | P | |
| S | K | I | F | F | S | | S | E | A | S | O | N |
| | S | | A | | P | | R | | P | | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
6. In each square, add up the outer three numbers, then add the two digits of the result together to give the central number.

**QUOTE UNCODE**
Be patient and understanding. Life is too short to be vengeful or malicious.

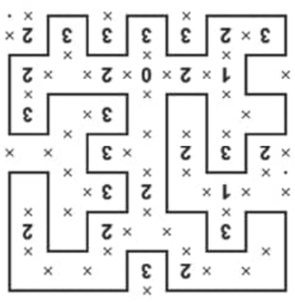
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 1 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 |

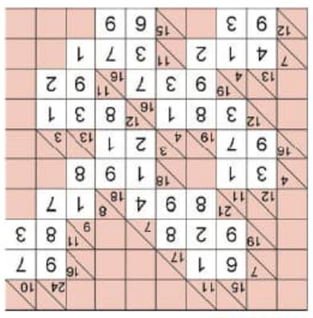
**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
L, El, Led, Lode, Doled, Doodle, Blooded.

**GO FIGURE**
2 - 3 + 8 - 6 = 1
Medium
7 + 7 + 4 / 2 = 9
Hard
7 - 2 x 8 - 6 = 34

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**



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**# Health setback**
"I didn't realise how bad it had gotten": Anne Hathaway says early-onset cataract left her half blind throughout her 30s

## SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

### On women trafficking

Director Naveen Mahadev's film Mruthyudevathe focuses on women trafficking. The director also plays a role in the film that was supposed to be released a few days ago but got delayed due to a delay in Central Board of Film Certification. According to assistant director Devu, the Censor Board has insisted they get permission from the Animal Welfare Board as the movie has a scene of a rooster being cut. "We are yet to receive the permission from the Animal Welfare Board of India," he said.

One of the film' songs, Nammava Maadeva, lyrics of which are penned by Mahadev, who also features in it, was released recently. "The first song got good feedback. It is about issues faced by women. We did not plan to include this song, but heroine Himashri insisted that I include it," said Mahadev, adding that the trailer of the movie has turned out well.

Sarika Rao, one of the heroines, said the film is not just for entertainment but also for awareness. "I play Arathi, a delivery partner," she said.

### Farmers in a knot

Kemparama Hediyala, a retired state government officer, is making a film about how young farmers are finding it tough to get brides. The movie, titled Raitara Makkalige Hennu Kodi, is scheduled for release shortly.

"I read about this phenomenon in the rural areas. Most parents do not want their daughters to marry farmers as they expect a luxurious life for their daughters. We shot the film in and around Hubballi-Dharwad and Belagavi and other cities," said Hediyala.

The Mysurean said he used to work as a production executive at All India Radio and later got a job in the education department. "I took up direction after my retirement. My experience as a production executive with AIR helped me with the movie's shooting. Most artists are from a theater background. This movie gave them a chance to showcase their acting skills," he said.

Hediyala has also supported the movie under the Mellulligaana Productions banner. It got a UA certificate from the Censor Board.

The movie features Jagadeesh Mooka, Divyasree and others.

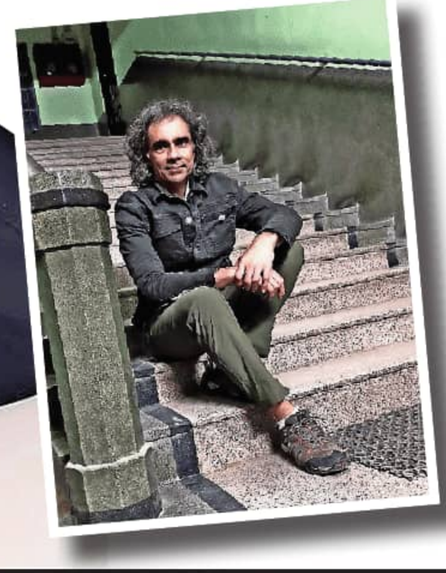
# Sorry pal!

## Imtiaz Ali issues heartfelt apology to Deepika after comment on her image goes viral

Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali has issued a heartfelt clarification to actor Deepika Padukone after raising eyebrows with his recent comments about her public image while filming the hit movie 'Cocktail'.

Taking to his Instagram Stories, Imtiaz addressed Deepika directly and sought to clear the air over remarks he made during his recent interview. "My dearest and loveliest @deepikapadukone," he wrote, "you are my pal, my buddy, my safe option for humour, I think you will never misunderstand my wannabe fun remarks because you more than anyone else know how much I love you, admire you, understand you, appreciate you... but I have been told you might misunderstand and be hurt so I am telling you pl don't..."

He added, "To be mean to you is not possible in this lifetime... I never thought I would write such a disclaimer to you but it's been a while and I didn't want to take a chance. Wish you the best and love always."



The clarification comes after a video of Imtiaz went viral. In the clip, he discussed the casting process of 'Cocktail' during an interview with News18. He revealed that Deepika was initially considered for the role of Meera, which was eventually played by Diana Penty. "They gave Deepika to read for Meera's part, the role which later Diana played," Imtiaz recalled.

He added, "Then she called me, and I asked her to play Veronica. I said, 'Why don't you read it for Veronica?'" The filmmaker explained, "Veronica is so different from what Deepika's image was at that point of time. But since I had been in the room and attended parties with her, I know how crazy and wild she can be, even though she was otherwise projecting a very 'good girl' image at that time."

He continued, "Now people have seen through the facade. So I thought it would be quite a new thing for Deepika to do. I knew that emotional ground exists, so that was exciting."
—ETimes

# 'Ananya put in a lot of hard work'

Ananya Panday and Lakshya's romantic drama 'Chand Mera Dil' has been receiving positive responses from audiences since its theatrical release. Viewers have particularly praised the chemistry between the lead pair and the film's emotional storyline. However,

amid the appreciation, Ananya Panday recently faced online criticism over a Bharatanatyam-fusion sequence featured in the

film. Now, a member of the choreography team has publicly supported the actress.

Ananya Kurup, who worked as assistant choreographer under choreographer Tejaswi Shetty, recently shared behind-the-scenes moments from the making of the dance sequence featuring Ananya Panday. While the clips and images attracted attention online, they also invited criticism from some social media users who questioned the actress' Bharatanatyam performance.

Responding to the backlash, Kurup defended Ananya in the comment section and highlighted the effort the actress put into learning the dance form within a limited period. "Trying a classical art form outside your comfort zone takes courage and dedication. Bharatanatyam is something dancers train in for years to perfect the grace, expressions, and technique. @ananyapanday put in genuine hard work and effort in a very short span of time, and that deserves appreciation. Instead of pulling someone down for trying something new, let's encourage artists who challenge themselves and give their best," she wrote.

Ananya responded with heart emojis. —ETimes

# Boyhood dream realised

Actor Leo Woodall has expressed excitement over joining the cast of 'The Lord of the Rings: The Hunt for Gollum', calling it a "boyhood dream" to become part of the iconic fantasy franchise, according to People.

Woodall, who was announced as part of the film's cast at CinemaCon in April alongside Jamie Dornan and Kate Winslet, spoke about the project during the New York premiere of 'Tuner', where he stars opposite Dustin Hoffman. "It means everything. It's a boyhood dream for me," Woodall said. "I watched it as a kid and I've seen it a million times, so to be part of it now is incredible," according to People.

While the 29-year-old actor remained tight-lipped about plot details, his role as Halvard has already been confirmed. The character is reportedly an original creation for the film and does not appear in JRR Tolkien's original book series. The Lord of the Rings: The Hunt for Gollum is slated for a theatrical release in 2027 and will feature returning franchise stars Ian McKellen as Gandalf, Elijah Wood as Frodo Baggins and Andy Serkis reprising his role as Gollum/Smeagol. —ANI

# Babil: Entering Malayalam cinema is not a new chapter, it's a journey

Actor Babil Khan, who has started shooting for "Gandhi Bazar Sunday Market" in Siliguri, has said that entering Malayalam cinema is not just a new chapter in his career, it's a journey he genuinely feels grateful to commence.

Directed by filmmaker Babu Janardhanan, the film also stars Aparna Balamurali, Deepak Parambol.

Babil said in a statement, "Malayalam cinema has always held a very special place in my heart because of the honesty, sensitivity, and emotional depth with which stories are told. As an actor, I've always believed that growth comes from stepping into the unknown and surrendering yourself completely to a new world, new people, and new emotions." —IANS